

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BERLIN 06251 01 OF 03 091624Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 NSC-05 CU-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
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O R 091434Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4997
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 BERLIN 6251

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PGOV CSCE GE US
SUBJ: GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTEST AGAINST CSCE REPORT

REF: STATE 130949

SUMMARY: THE GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY ON JUNE 8 PROTESTED ORALLY TO
CHARGE AGAINST ALLEGED SLANDERS AND ACCUSATIONS AGAINST
GDR IN CURRENT CSCE REPORT. PROTEST ASSERTED THAT ATTEMPTS
WERE BEING MADE TO INTERFERE IN GDR INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND
TO DEPART FROM THE "REALITIES" OF THE QUADRIPARTITE
AGREEMENT. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PROTEST STATED GDR
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 06251 01 OF 03 091624Z

INTEREST IN DEVELOPING "NORMAL" RELATIONS WITH US, CITING
THEIR RECENT PROPOSALS ARE EXAMPLES OF THE GDR ATTITUDE.
CHARGE RESPONDED THAT HE COULD NOT ACCEPT SUCH CHARACTERIZA-
TIONS OF THE REPORT, REFUTED THEIR ASSERTIONS RE INTER-
FERENCE IN INTERNAL GDR AFFAIRS OR ON QA, WELCOMED GDR
INTEREST IN IMPROVING RELATIONS, AND HANDED OVER COPY OF
SECRETARY VANCE'S JUNE 6 STATEMENT BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL

CSCE COMMISSION.

OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT PROTEST IS GENERAL AND MILD IN TONE, THAT GDR WOULD PREFER NOT TO GET INTO SLUGGING MATCH NOW, BUT THAT JUNE 9 EAST GERMAN PRESS TREATMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN US DEMONSTRATES THEY ARE PREPARED TO DO SO IF NECESSARY. WE HAVE RECEIVED PRESS ENQUIRIES RE EMBASSY'S ATTITUDE TOWARD JUNE 9 MEDIA TREATMENT AND THIS MESSAGE CONTAINS SUBSTANCE OF OUR REPLY. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PROVIDE FURTHER PRESS GUIDANCE AS WELL AS ANY OTHER POINTS IT BELIEVES SHOULD BE MADE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY TO ITS ORAL PROTEST. END SUMMARY.

1. GDR MFA AMERICAN DIVISION CHIEF GEYER CALLED CLARGE TO MFA LATE AFTERNOON JUNE 8 TO DELIVER "ORAL PROTEST" AGAINST CURRENT CSCE REPORT. SUBSTANCE OF PROTEST IS AS FOLLOWS: THE GDR HAS TAKEN NOTE WITH UTMOST "ESTRANGEMENT" OF THE ACCUSATIONS AND SLANDERS IN THE REPORT OF THE US CONGRESS. THE GDR PROTEST AGAINST ATTEMPTS TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE GDR. STATEMENTS BY RESPONSIBLE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE US WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE PUBLIC ARE IN CRASS CONTRAST TO THE SPIRIT AND LETTER OF HELSINKI. FURTHERMORE, AN ATTEMPT IS BEING MADE TO DEPART FROM THE REALITIES AND THE AGREED COMPROMISE OF INTERESTS ALSO REGARDING THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON WEST BERLIN. THE ACCUSATIONS MADE PUBLIC BY THE MEDIA LACK ANY CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH. IN CONTRAST, THE GDR REMAINS READY, AS HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY STRESSED, FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORMAL INTERSTATE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BERLIN 06251 01 OF 03 091624Z

RELATIONS IN THE SPIRIT OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. THE GDR HAS GIVEN REPEATED PROOF OF THIS ATTITUDE, MOST RECENTLY IN TRANSMITTING CONCRETE PROPOSALS TO THE US FOR EXPANDING RELATIONS. THIS GDR INITIATIVE IS IN ACCORD BOTH WITH THE INTERESTS OF THE TWO STATES AND THEIR PEOPLES AND WITH THE ASPIRATIONS FOR INCREASED SECURITY AND COOPERATION AS EXPRESSED IN THE FINAL ACT. AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS AN IRREFUTABLE FACT THAT, FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD INTERSTATE RELATIONS, IT TAKES TWO PARTNERS WHO MAKE SERIOUS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THIS. ANY ATTEMPTS TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER PARTY, AND THE LEVELING OF ACCUSATIONS AND PUBLIC CAMPAIGNS DO NOT CONSTITUTE A BASIS FOR THIS.

2. IN REPLY, CHARGE SAID HE WOULD REPORT GEYER'S STATEMENT PROMPTLY TO WASHINGTON. AT THE SAME TIME, WHILE HE HAD NOT YET READ THE REPORT AND WAS AWARE OF ONLY PARTS OF IT FROM ACCOUNTS IN THE WESTERN PRESS, CHARGE COULD NOT ACCEPT GEYER'S CHARACTERIZATION OF THE

REPORT AS CONTAINING ACCUSATIONS AND SLANDER. SUCH
ASSERTIONS WERE UNFOUNDED. THE PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE REPORT WERE RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS WHO DO NOT
ENGAGE IN SLANDER. THE REPORT ITSELF WAS IN COMPLIANCE
WITH US LEGISLATION WHICH CALLS FOR A SEMI-ANNUAL
REPORT ON CSCE COMPLIANCE.

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 06251 02 OF 03 091722Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 BERLIN 6251

3. ON THE GDR'S ASSERTION THAT THE REPORT WAS AN ATTEMPT
TO INTERFERE IN THE GDR'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE CHARGE
STRESSED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD SPOKEN OUT VERY CLEARLY
ON THE MATTER OF FULFILLMENT OF OBLIGATIONS UNDERTAKEN
IN INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING THE HELSINKI FINAL
ACT. THEREFORE, THOSE WHO HAVE SIGNED SUCH DOCUMENTS
CANNOT CLAIM THAT THE TREATMENT OF THEIR CITIZENS IS THEIR
BUSINESS ALONE, THAT OTHER SIGNATORIES HAVE NO RIGHT
TO COMMENT, OR THAT SUCH COMMENTS ARE AN ATTEMPT TO
INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY. 4. ON THE QUADRIPARTITE
AGREEMENT, THE GDR KNOWS THE

US POSITION, NAMELY THAT THE AGREEMENT APPLIES TO ALL
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 06251 02 OF 03 091722Z

OF BERLIN AND NOT JUST TO WEST BERLIN. ALTHOUGH CHARGE
HAD NOT READ THE REPORT, HE DOUBTED IT COULD CONTAIN
ANYTHING AGAINST THE "REALITIES" OF THE SITUATION.

5. CHARGE NOTED US IS ALSO INTERESTED IN IMPROVING
RELATIONS WITH THE GDR IN APPROPRIATE AREAS, AND
WELCOMED GEYER'S REMARKS ON US/GDR RELATIONS. WE WERE
CONTINUING TO STUDY THE MAY 12 NON-PAPER AIDE MEMOIRE AND
WOULD RESPOND WHEN THAT STUDY IS COMPLETED.

6. CHARGE THEN SAID HE WISHED TO USE OCCASION OF THE
MEETING TO TRANSMIT TO GEYER THE TEXT OF SECRETARY
VANCE'S JUNE 6 STATEMENT BEFORE THE CONGRESSIONAL
COMMISSION ON SECURITY"COOPERATION IN EUROPE, ADDING
WE WOULD PASS ON FULL REPORT ONCE WE HAVE RECEIVED IT.
CHARGE READ PORTION OF SECRETARY'S STATEMENT DEALING
WITH OBJECTIVES US WILL SEEK AT BELGRADE, AND CONCLUDED
WITH SECRETARY'S REMARKS THAT WE WILL STATE OUR GOALS
CLEARLY, WITHOUT POLEMICS AND THAT "IT WOULD SERVE NO
ONE'S INTERESTS IF SUCH SERIOUS AND FAR REACHING QUESTIONS
WERE DEALT WITH IN ANYTHING OTHER THAN A SERIOUS AND
STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER". THAT WAS THE SPIRIT IN WHICH
WE WERE APPROACHING BELGRADE, AND THAT WAS THE SPIRIT,
IN THE CHARGE'S VIEW, WITH WHICH THE CURRENT REPORT
SHOULD BE READ.

7. GEYER SAID HE WOULD CONVEY CHARGE'S REMARKS TO
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GRUNERT, ACCEPTED THE TEXT OF
THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS, AND SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO
HAVE FULL CSCE REPORT WHENEVER POSSIBLE. HE ADDED IN
THIS CONNECTION THAT HE HAD ALREADY READ FULL 93 PAGE
TEXT, WHICH HAD BEEN TELEXED BY GDR EMBASSY WASHINGTON.
HE HAD ALSO COMPARED CLOSELY THE TEXT WITH ARTICLES
THAT HAD APPEARED IN WESTERN PRESS. GEYER MADE NO
EFFORT TO REPLY TO CHARGE'S REMARKS RE GDR ORAL
PROTEST, AND THEN TURNED DISCUSSION TO HIS FORTHCOMING
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PAGE 03 BERLIN 06251 02 OF 03 091722Z

VISIT TO US.

8. ADN LATE AFTERNOON SAME DAY CARRIED BRIEF ITEM,
REFERRING TO VIEWS OF "OFFICIAL CIRCLES IN THE GDR
CAPITAL," TO THE EFFECT THAT THE "ACCUSATIONS AND

SLANDERS" AGAINST THE GDR AND OTHER SOCIALIST STATES
CONTAINED IN A CONGRESSIONAL REPORT ARE "NO BASIS FOR
THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD INTERSTATE RELATIONS IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT." EAST BERLIN
NEWSPAPERS JUNE 9 CARRY ON PAGE 2 THE ADN ITEM AND
THE TASS KORNILOV ATTACK ON THE PRESIDENT, AS WELL AS
A FULL PAGE OF "VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA."
CITING US AND UN SOURCES, THE PAPER CARRIES ITEMS ON
"OVER TEN MILLION UNEMPLOYED IN THE US" CRIME;
"THE BLACK ARE THE SLAVES OF THE NATION";
"MASSIVE CIA HELP FOR THE PINOCHET BLOOD REGIME, " ECT.WHILE SIMILAR
STORIES HAVE APPEARED FROM TIME TO TIME,
THIS IS THE FIRST FULL-SCALE BLAST WE HAVE SEEN. WHILE
NOT, IN OUR VIEW, DIRECTLY CONNECTED, EMBASSY NOTES THAT
OUR CURRENT DISPLAY IN WINDOW BOXES IS "AMERICA LOOKS
AT ITSELF TWO YEARS AFTER HELSINKI." DISPLAY APPEARS
TO BE ATTRACTING NORMAL ATTENTION.

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 06251 03 OF 03 091703Z
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USIE-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 BERLIN 6251

9. COMMENT: OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE GDR "ORAL PROTEST", WHILE PROMPT IN COMING AFTER THE APPEARANCE OF THE COMMISSION'S REPORT, IS GENERAL AND MILD IN TONE. THEY APPEAR -- THROUGH THE USE OF AN ORAL RATHER THAN A WRITTEN PROTEST -- TO BE TRYING TO KEEP THE REPORT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FROM BECOMING TOO MUCH OF AN ISSUE -- AT THIS STATE -- IN OUR RELATIONS. THE SEVERAL REFERENCES TO THEIR DESIRE FOR DEVELOPING "NORMAL" RELATIONS AND "THEIR" PROPOSALS ON US/GDR RELATIONS SUGGEST TO US THAT THEY HOPE BELGRADE WILL NOT TURN INTO A SLUGGING MATCH THAT COULD INTERFERE WITH THEIR PLANS TO TRY TO PUT OUR BILATERAL DEALINGS ON A BETTER

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PAGE 02 BERLIN 06251 03 OF 03 091703Z

FOOTING. THEY DID NOT, IN THIS CONNECTION, IN ANY WAY DIRECTLY ATTACK THE PRESIDENT IN THE ORAL PROTEST, ALTHOUGH THEY DID REPRINT THE KORNILOV PIECE AND COULD PRESUMABLY BEGIN A HARSHER ATTACK AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATION. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY HAVE DEMONSTRATED BY THE FULL PAGE JUNE 9 BLAST AGAINST US THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO ATTACK US AT BELGRADE IF NECESSARY. OUR GUESS IS, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WOULD PREFER NOT TO DO SO.

10. IF THE DEPARTMENT WANTS US TO RESPOND MORE DIRECTLY ON SOME OF THE STATEMENTS IN THE PROTEST, PARTICULARLY ON THE QA, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING APPROPRIATE GUIDANCE. CHARGE IS HOSTING SMALL RECEPTION AT NOON JUNE 10 FOR BEIL GROUP (INCLUDING GEYER), AT WHICH CHARGE COULD MAKE ANY ADDITIONAL POINTS PRIVATELY TO GEYER. DEPARTMENT MAY PREFER, HOWEVER, TO MAKE POINTS TO GEYER WHILE HE IS IN THE US.

11. EMBASSY WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RECEIVING ASAP CABLED PORTIONS OF CSCE REPORT THAT DEAL WITH GDR.

12. ON JUNE 9, RESIDENT REUTERS AND DPA CORRESPONDENTS REQUESTED EMBASSY REACTION GDR PRESS COMPILATION OF US HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, AND HOW EMBASSY COULD COUNTER-ACT SUCH PRESS TREATMENT. PAO REPLIED: CITED REPORTS WERE UNBALANCED AND ONE-SIDED, E.G. NO MENTION OF WELFARE PROGRAMS AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE WHICH SOMETIMES EXCEEDED INCOME OF EMPLOYED IN OTHER COUNTRIES; EMBASSY DID NOT INTEND PROTEST ALTHOUGH AWARE THAT GDR PRESS ATTENTION HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN US HAS INCREASED IN LAST FEW WEEKS, PRIOR TO BELGRADE CONFERENCE, CLIMAXED BY TODAY'S FULL-PAGE TREATMENT; THAT GDR PRESS LAW PREVENTS DIRECT MAILING OF PRESS MATERIALS TO NEWSPAPERS; AND THAT EMBASSY'S CURRENT WINDOW DISPLAYS, FEATURING POSITIVE SIDE HUMAN RIGHTS

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BERLIN 06251 03 OF 03 091703Z

IN US, WERE ATTRACTING ATTENTION AND WELL-WORTH HIS
LOOKING AT. WE PLAN TO RESPOND ALONG SIMILAR LINES IF
WE RECEIVE FURTHER QUERIES BY PRESS. IF ASKED BY PRESS
IF EAST GERMANS HAVE PROTESTED OFFICIALLY TO US ABOUT
COMMISSION'S CSCE REPORT, WE WOULD SAY THAT EAST
GERMAN'S MADE THEIR VIEWS ON REPORT KNOWN TO US AND
THAT EMBASSY OFFICIAL RESPONDED IN APPROPRIATE
MANNER, AND THAT DEPARTMENT IS NOW STUDYING GDR REMARKS.
EMBASSY WELCOMES ANYFURTHER PRESS GUIDANCE.POLANSKY

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